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Parliament, praying for a repeal of all the penal statutes now in force, whose operation extends to the province of religion. This was seconded by Dr. Pye Smith, head tutor of the Independent Academy, at Homerton, who spoke with considerable ability in behalf of complete religious liberty. Several gentlemen, who did not object to the principle, wished the period of application to be deferred to a more suitable opportunity. Dr. Abraham Rees contended at some length, and with great energy, that the proper time was come, and assigned various reasons for an immediate application to both houses of Parliament. Dr. Lindsey, the Rev. J. Joyce, the Rev. J. Humphrys, the Rev. R. Aspland, and the Rev. J. Coates, spoke on the same side of the question. An adjournment, however was moved, and lost by the opposite party. At the same time, it is but justice to add, that many of those gentlemen who held out in the first instance, afterwards signed the petition with the utmost cordiality. The resolutions were then separately read from the chair; the first passed unanimously, the rest with little animadversion. Indeed, the sense of the meeting was decidedly in favour of them, the alone ground of dispute being founded on the propriety of the petition being presented at the present time.

(The Resolutions and Petition have already appeared in our pages.)

DIED—At Chertsey, in the flower of his age, Mr. Martin Smart, perhaps the acutest grammarian of the present age. He was indebted for the rudiments of his education to Dr. Alexander Cromble, now of Greenwich, and was the fellow-pupil of the well-known and amiable Mr. Philip Mallet. Never did pupil do greater credit to the lessons of his instructor. He was, however, early and suddenly cut off from

the further benefits of education, by the misfortunes in trade of his father. Resolute not to be a burthen to his friends, he at this time became a private soldier in a regiment of militia. Shortly after, he was raised to the rank of a corporal. While he was thus circumstanced, he made himself known to a person of some eminence in literature, by a series of letters he addressed to him, discussing with the utmost minuteness and ingenuity, a multitude of grammatical points. At the peace of Amiens, his regiment was disbanded, and coming to London, Mr. Smart found some immediate resource in the employment of corrector of the press for the printers, for which office he was eminently qualified. He is known to the literary world, as the translator of an elegant edition of *Gil Blas*. As a reader for the press, he has for several years past done credit to the office of Mr. Hamilton, at Weybridge; and among works which are deeply indebted to his acumen for their reputation and accuracy, may be named the edition of the *Bible*, to which some notes have been added by Mr. Hewlett.

REPEAL OF THE ABSURD AND UNJUST SYSTEM OF GAME-LAWS.

A society has been formed at Great Marlow, by gentlemen of considerable landed property, for the laudable purpose of protecting the growing crops of bread corn from being injured in the spring season by game and particularly rabbits. The main object of this association is, to petition Parliament for a repeal of the Game-laws, that all persons may be allowed to destroy the wild beasts and vermin, hares and rabbits, which prey upon so great a quantity of the food of men! The Society have published a series of resolutions, which, in point of justice and feeling, are truly admirable.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th July, to the 20th August, 1812.

Since the commencement of this month several refreshing rains have fallen, which have greatly improved the late crops. The potatoes in particular will be much benefited by them; they have already recovered from the yellow sickly appearance occasioned by the extreme drought.

Complaints of a blast in the wheat crops are very general in this province, not only of what is called smut, but of a rusty or orange-coloured dust on the ears, which pro-

duces small shrivelled grains, and is known in some parts of the country by the appellation of the orange blast. To what cause this disease in wheat ought to be ascribed, is not perhaps easy to determine. Nor is it peculiar to the present season, as a writer in the Commercial Chronicle seems to think, but has made its appearance on the crops many years ago.

In several parts of the country the reaping of bere has commenced; and the meal of it produced in the markets, which, with a large supply of new potatoes, have reduced the price of oat-meal, and greatly relieved the distresses of the poor. The wheat harvest will also soon come in; but the oats in a general way will be late.

The principal part of the flax crops have been pulled; and in many places the saving of seed seems to have engaged the attention of the growers, so that there is good reason to hope they will be more independent than heretofore of foreign supplies.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

"Some idea may be formed," says the Editor of the *Leed's Mercury*, "of the present situation of trade, from the following circumstance:—An advertisement for a clerk, inserted in our last paper, has produced one hundred applications!"

This fact at once shows the state of depression of trade in England more forcibly, than any theoretical reasoning. The deep distress of the commercial system, aided by fears of the Luddites, extorted from Government the suspension of the Orders in Council, which, like almost all concessions granted by weak men, will probably be found too late to prevent war with the United States of America. The impolicy of these famed orders was not greater now than at their first enactment. No circumstance had occurred to make them more impolitic. But obstinacy, blind obstinacy, prevented Government from seeing their error, till a very late period, and certainly now it must appear with ludicrous effect, that the British minister was arguing with the American government as to the good policy of the orders, and insisting, that Britain never could be brought to relinquish them, at a period, when his employers in England had published a temporary abrogation of them. Perhaps there never was a more severe satire uttered against the memory of Perceval, as a man of persevering obstinacy, than in the accounts we frequently read in the newspapers, even in the ministerial papers, that the knowledge of his death would restore the friendly dispositions of the Americans. No! neither the account of his death, nor the hopes hence arising of a beneficial change of system, nor the forced submission as to the orders, will now be likely to restore harmony between the two countries. These things might have been of some avail, if war had not been previously declared, but that step threw conciliation at a greater distance, and forced forward a discussion on many points of difference between the two countries, which might otherwise for a time have been kept back. The question is often asked, "Are we at war with America?" Credulity, and a deceiving bias to what we wish to believe, often give a favourable answer. To some it appears almost as rational a question to ask, "Are we at war with France?" It is greatly to be feared, that we are seriously, and most injuriously to our interests, at war with America. A similar infatuation as to the reality of the war, and as to its probable event, seized the public mind about 37 years ago, at the commencement of the revolutionary war, which ended in the independence of the United States. Bragadocios in the present day talk as Colonel Brown, who then declared in the Irish House of Commons, that "he could march at the head of St. Andrew's watch from one end of North America to another." An infatuation of a similar kind possesses many at present.

The manufacturing and mercantile interests of England, having lately exerted themselves so strenuously to get the Orders in Council rescinded, had flattered themselves that their trade with America was restored. They must feel much disappointed, by finding, that the measure was too late to be of service. The high hopes, so warmly expressed, show how necessary reconciliation with America was to their interests. When they find war is certain, their hopes will probably be as suddenly depressed, and the revival of the Luddite system of riots, with all its unenlightened policy and ferocity, may be dreaded on the parts of the more ignorant por-